DCE #5

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.

: 09/225,245

Applicant

: Naohito TOMOE : January 4, 1999

Filed TC/A.U.

: 2685

Examiner

: Quochien B. Vuong

Docket No. : 1137-761 Customer No. : 06449 Confirmation No. : 2691

Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 RECEIVED

APR 2 9 2004

Technology Center 2600

## **PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Please amend the above-identified application, prior to examination, as follows:

Amendment to the claims begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 12.